

HOUSE No. 403

By Ms. Callahan of Sutton, petition of Jennifer M. Callahan and others for legislation to establish local school health advisory councils. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Jennifer M. Callahan
Barbara A. L'Italien

Denise Provost
Richard T. Moore

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LOCAL SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended
- 2 by inserting after section 54B the following section:—
- 3 Section 54C. The school committee of each school district shall
- 4 establish a local school health education advisory council to assist
- 5 the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in
- 6 the district's health education instruction and wellness programs.
- 7 A school district must consider the recommendations of the local
- 8 school health education advisory council before changing the
- 9 district's health education curriculum or instruction.
- 10 The local school health advisory council's duties include recom-
- 11 mending:— (a) the number of hours of instruction to be provided in
- 12 health education;(b) health education curriculum appropriate for
- 13 specific grade levels that shall incorporate the Massachusetts
- 14 Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework and that may include
- 15 a coordinated health education program consistent with guidelines
- 16 based on the American School Health Association's Comprehensive
- 17 School Health Program and the Center for Disease Control and
- 18 Prevention coordinated school health program designed to prevent
- 19 obesity, cardiovascular disease, and Type II diabetes through coordi-
- 20 nation of the following nine elements:

21 (i) health services;
22 (ii) health education;
23 (iii) school nutrition services;
24 (iv) physical education;
25 (v) healthly school environment;
26 (vi) school counseling;
27 (vii) school psychological and social services;
28 (viii) staff health and wellness; and
29 (ix) family and community involvement.

30 The school committee shall appoint members to the local school
31 health advisory council. A majority of the members must be persons
32 who are parents of students enrolled in the district and who are not
33 employed by the district. The board of trustees also may appoint
34 one or more persons from each of the following groups or a repre-
35 sentative from a group other than a group specified under this
36 subsection: public school teachers, public school administrators,
37 students, licensed health care professionals, the business community,
38 law enforcement, senior citizens, the clergy and nonprofit organiza-
39 tions.

40 The department of education shall monitor and act as a clearing
41 house for the activities of the local school health advisory councils.

42 The department shall also notify each school district of the avail-
43 ability of professional development opportunities on school health
44 issues.

45 Each local school district shall develop an action plan prepared in
46 collaboration with the local school health advisory council to assist
47 in implementation of health education and wellness policies. The
48 action plan shall identify steps that need to be taken each year to
49 fully implement the policy and shall include a review and appro-
50 priate modification of existing physical education and health
51 curricula.

1 SECTION 2. The department of education shall conduct a cost
2 analysis study under the direction of the commissioner and the advi-
3 sory board established pursuant to section 12 of chapter 6 to identify
4 the annual costs associated with continuously funding comprehen-
5 sive health education resources to be used by local health advisory
6 councils to assist in meeting district health education action plans,

7 goals and objectives. The study shall be completed and reported to
8 the general court and the governor by April, 2008.

9 The department shall also notify each school district of the avail-
10 ability of professional development opportunities and resources in
11 school health education issues.